

Fall 2006

Milner Matters Fall 2006

Milner Library
Illinois State University

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Recommended Citation

Milner Library, "Milner Matters Fall 2006" (2006). *Milner Matters*. 12.
<https://ir.library.illinoisstate.edu/mlbmm/12>

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Illinois State University Milner Library

news

Newsletter for library science alums, librarians who are Illinois State graduates, retirees, and the friends of Milner Library

Librarians mark Ange Milner's grave

By Elaine Graybill

When Ange Milner died in Bloomington in January 1928, she was well honored. The University closed during her funeral, which was on campus; Illinois State Normal University President David Felmley eulogized her; and prominent citizens and professors served as her pallbearers. This woman who had served as the first university librarian for 38 years was laid to rest next to her parents and a brother in what was then called Bloomington Cemetery. Her grave was then, by all appearances,

forgotten for 78 years.

Milner herself certainly was not forgotten. In recognition of her progressive attitude and intellectual energy that put the university library at the cutting edge and kept it there, the University named its new library for Milner when it was dedicated in 1940. That building now is known as Williams Hall, and Milner Library occupies a newer building on the north-east corner of the campus. Milner had such a presence and personality that lore grew up around her memory through the decades and she has remained a known figure on campus.

The subject of Milner's unmarked gravesite came up in a 2005 meeting in the administrative offices of her eponymous library. Library Dean Cheryl Elzy suggested that placing a marker on the grave on Milner's 150th birthday would fit well with the University's upcoming 150th anniversary celebration. Elzy's assistant, Toni Tucker, headed the committee to plan the

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Admiring the new headstone for Ange Milner dedicated at Evergreen Cemetery are Normal Mayor Chris Koos, University President Al Bowman, Milner Library Dean Cheryl Elzy and State Representative Dan Brady.

celebratory event at which the grave-marker would be unveiled in April 2006.

History Professor Emerita and University Archivist Jo Rayfield was on Tucker's planning committee. "In her time, Ange Milner was a leader in her field," highly regarded statewide and nationally, Rayfield said. Rayfield said it was beneficial for the University to place the grave-marker because "It is important to honor our own... Without Ange Milner we wouldn't be where we are today. I think it does us credit to be able to say 'thank you' to Ange Milner, and putting the stone out there is a way of doing that." Rayfield described Milner as "an amazing person."

U-High alumna Alice Cherry of Normal described Milner from her own recollections as a high school student. "She was a petite lady, dressed in black silk with many tucks and ruffles with a bit of white at the throat. Her white hair was attractively piled pompadour-style on her head and her glasses were on a cord around her neck. Very feminine, very professional, very petite, and very in

control. ...We didn't go to the library often, as it was strictly business and not just a place to while an hour away in fun."

Milner, whose formal schooling was sidetracked by frail health, received her library training from mentors and through self-tutoring, a process described by Eleanor Weir Welch in *Normal University Centennial*. Welch was the librarian who succeeded Milner.

While she had no formal college or professional training, she was a widely read, intelligent, open-minded woman with a vision of the place of books in higher education.

She started her work with only the library training ... [a local librarian and a local biologist] had given her, but she studied endlessly. She began in 1890 to take and study the Library Journal with its articles on library methods by the leaders of the profession. She attended meetings of librarians. ...In 1896 she was among the librarians of the state who organized the Illinois Library Association ... and that fall she was in Springfield on the committee to organize a state library commission and to make plans for a library section of the State Teachers Association.

Milner also became a prolific writer of journal articles about the role of libraries in education, which was a relatively new idea. Welch's book describes how Milner put that idea into practice on campus and beyond.

In 1892 Miss Milner began instruction in the use of the library, "for it is the aim of both teachers and librarians to help the students to cultivate a familiarity with good literature and with the use of books, and to give them the best possible assistance in doing their reference work" so that in turn they could train others. Her "professorship of books" was coming true. Illinois State Normal University was among the first half-dozen teacher training institutions to offer such instruction.

By 1899 Miss Milner was speaking before National Education Association sessions and at library meetings on the need for such classes. Five years later a pamphlet which she wrote, "Formation and Care of School Libraries," was having wide use. The course, at first optional, was now required and other courses on the formation and care of school libraries were offered. With an annual appropriation, a trained assistant and student help, the library rapidly took a prominent place on the campus. Its modern approach became known throughout the country.

On the day the grave-marker was placed, about 40 people—plus news reporters and photographers—gathered in Evergreen Cemetery, as it is now called, in Bloomington. Through research into old cemetery documents, Tucker had located the grave at section 17, plot 10. She and her committee had worked with a monument maker in Pontiac to design the red-polished granite stone, and it had been purchased with a private donation through the Illinois State University Foundation.

The front of the stone has standard information and a picture of Milner. The back reads, "Illinois State Normal University Librarian 1890–1928. This marker was placed in honor of the 150th anniversary of Angeline Vernon Milner's birth April 10, 2006 by the faculty and staff of Milner Library."

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Alumni news

We welcome updates from alumni for *Milner Library News* publication. We want to know about your activities, career news, family news, and significant events (weddings, births, honors and awards, promotions, changes in employment, personal accomplishments). Please fill out this form and return it so your news can be published in the next issue. Mail to Illinois State University, Milner Library, Alumni News, Campus Box 8900, Normal, IL 61790-8900, or e-mail to ttucker@ilstu.edu.

NAME (MAIDEN NAME IF APPLICABLE)

CLASS YEAR

TELEPHONE

E-MAIL

MAILING ADDRESS

PRESENT OCCUPATION/EMPLOYER

NEWS/COMMENTS

Thank you for sharing your news with other alumni.

Message from the dean

Today we read about the Millennials and how unique they are. Before that it was Generation X or Generation Y, and before that it was some other clever term that highlighted different expectations, different values, different communication, and so much more. Libraries everywhere are adjusting to changing use patterns, changing delivery methods, and changing roles for libraries on campus. Milner Library is adjusting, too.



Dean Cheryl Elzy

Milner Library has long offered e-mail and live chat reference for its users. We've also offered an array of services through our Web site—online requests for materials and interlibrary loan, for example. We've offered laptops for building check-out for almost a year. Our digital collections are growing every day. Search enhancements like WebFeat and FindIt! are up and running. Still, we're looking for new and different ways to serve our patrons.

So...we've gone directly to our campus community and asked them what they want in their 21st-century library!

This spring Milner Library participated in an online national benchmarking study of user satisfaction called LibQUAL. Over 500 libraries have participated, so we can compare our results to those of our peer institutions to see how we stack up. More important, though, we can use the results and comments from our own Illinois State audience to determine how we improve our collections, services, and environment to better serve their needs. We received 655 responses to our survey from Illinois State faculty and students. We're studying the responses right now and will use the feedback in new directions over the coming year.

We also worked with College of Business experts to develop a focus group study of undergraduate students. The report arrived mid-June, and a quick review of the document turned up many intriguing observations. Students want a better, cleaner, more comfortable facility with better lighting. They want study spaces that fit a variety of learning styles from group studies to maximum quiet. Students want a coffee bar and places to plug in their laptops. They want many more electronic resources. They are reluctant to approach reference desks, and they don't really know about the wide spectrum of things we already do offer. They love our services—but of course, they want even more. Milner matters.

We can readily conclude that there is a lot we can do to improve the library's facilities, services, and collections. We'll share some new directions for Milner in coming issues.

Our digital
collections are
growing every day.
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Tidbits

Bryant Jackson Lectureship

Established in 2003 by Professor Emeritus Joe Kraus, the lectureship honors past Associate University Librarian Bryant Jackson. Speakers present a program on an aspect of library research.

Past lectures have included "Morals in Print: Early Modern Books that Teach" given by Professor Paul Gehl of the Newberry Library and "The Anatomy of Bibliography" given by Professor Emeritus Donald Krummel, Graduate School of Library and Information Science and the School of Music, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

The 2006 speaker, Mary Case, presented "Embracing Electronic Collections: Issues and Challenges." Ms. Case directed the activities at ARL for transforming the system of scholarly communication by promoting innovative, creative, and alternative ways of sharing research results. She supported the development of the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition (SPARC). She has contributed significantly to current library dialog on developing and maintaining extensive collections of electronic journals.

Flickr

Social use of the Internet has become a trend with the new generation of college students. They use instant messaging and blogging to communicate, Face2Face and MySpace to talk to their friends, and Flickr to share photos on a common Web site. Confused? Most of us are. We at Milner are asked to share photos of our events with other libraries around the country. In order to make this easier, Milner Library has created a Flickr account letting our fellow librarians and alums view our events. Flickr is an online photo management and distribution application that was created to make photo sharing easier. You can visit the Milner Library site at www.flickr.com/photos/isumilnerlibrary. Photos of our past honored alums, Friends of Milner events, Homecoming parades, READ posters, and many more are posted for you to view.

Friends of Milner Library Annual Book Sale

The Friends' annual book sale transitioned last year from a weekday to a weekend and changed location from the Bowling & Billiards Center to the main floor of the library. The Saturday of Family Weekend was selected to take advantage of visitors on campus. The sale proved successful, raising more money than any other sale in the past. The 2006 sale will again be held during Family Weekend, October 28, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Books and materials for the sale come from community donations. Small collections to entire estates are donated. Each year the selection changes, making the hunt for that sought-after book more exciting.

Friends give grant awards

At the March 2006 board meeting the Friends of Milner Library reviewed submissions requesting funding for Milner-related projects. The following projects were funded:

- Preservation and reformatting of films depicting university history
- Conservation and stabilization of the Stevenson Collection
- Digital preservation of President Tompkin's letter copy book, September 1899–June 1900
- "International Collection of Child Art" educational and informative brochure
- Global access to Milner's resources: one word at a time
- Ange Milner bronze lettering

The Friends of the Library raise funds through the annual book sale that takes place each fall, mini-book sales throughout the year, and the Murder Mystery Dinner.

Alumni update

Brian Teasr '70 recently retired from the Illinois Department of Corrections after 23 years of service as an GED educator and correctional lieutenant. Brian had this to say: "For the record, I loved Milner Library as an undergraduate. In my book, Milner is right up there with the Library of Congress."

Laura Garrett '73 was featured in the March 2006 issue of the Illinois State University Alumni Newsletter. She spent more than half her life at State Farm Insurance, ending her 50-year career as the head librarian of the second-largest downstate law library. Laura spends her time traveling with her husband Bob. They have visited Hawaii six times and celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in Australia and New Zealand. Laura and Bob are avid fans of Illinois State's women's basketball and volleyball teams.

Lee A. Logan '74, M.S.'80, is the consulting and continuing education director of the Alliance Library System (ALS). The Alliance is a multitype consortium of 259 libraries in a 14,000-square-mile area in west and central Illinois. Lee and the four library development consultants oversee the day-to-day consulting on topics such as finance, personnel, grant writing, database usage, library law and legislation, and working with trustees. He also oversees the coordination and development of all of the continuing education events for the member librarians.

Beth Duttlinger '88 was one of the last students to complete the undergraduate library science education program. She completed her Master of Library Science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1993. Beth has worked in libraries in Illinois, Michigan, Ohio, Oregon, and North Carolina in public, system, and academic library settings. Beth returned to Illinois in 2002 and is the learning resources center coordinator at Black Hawk College, East Campus, in Kewanee. She was an Illinois State Library 2004 SYNERGY participant and recently completed Cataloging Boot Camp. She has found her "place in the country" and lives there with her husband, Jon, and two children, Dell and Joe.

Inside Milner

People

Retirements

Dick Christensen plans to retire on August 31 after 32 years at Milner Library. Dick has had a distinguished career during his long tenure at the library. He has been an implementer of the various online catalog systems at Milner, served on and with the Illinois Library Computer Systems Organization (ILCSO), served briefly as an associate university librarian, and served as interim music librarian, in addition to many state, university, and library committees. His self-effacing, quiet manner will be missed by all of us at Milner Library.

New employees

Charlie Edwards is a library assistant in Access Services. His main duty is to provide great customer service with a smile for all patrons at the Access Services desk. In addition, he is in charge of searching for overdue lists, help with patron searches, lost items, billing issues, student worker supervision, and other duties as needed.

Megan Kerns is a digital imaging specialist I. Her job consists of everyday digitizing projects for the library such as scanning slides for the ILSTUDIA project (Illinois State University Digital Images of Art) and scanning books and articles for digital use in classrooms (e-reserves.) She also works on larger projects such as digitizing the McLean County Museum's Native American Collection.

Lyndsey Carney is a new library assistant in Processing. Her main duties include processing and making all library materials shelf-ready, as well as making sure all processing work is correct and of high quality.

Accomplishments

Kathe Conley and Toni Tucker co-authored "Matching Media to Audience Equals Marketing Success." *College & Undergraduate Libraries*, 12:1/2, 47-64, 2005. The journal was co-published simultaneously as the book *Real-Life Marketing and Promotional Strategies in College Libraries: Connecting with Campus and Community*, Chapter 4.

Toni Tucker co-authored "Designing an Annual Visiting Author Program: Successful Collaboration Between Public and Private University Libraries." *College & Undergraduate Libraries*, 13:1, 3-20, 2006.

Angie Bonnell presented "Smoking, Drinking, Cancer and Family History: Five Years of Federal Documents Use Data at Illinois State University," "Electronic Depository Manual, Chapter Five, Collection Development," and "Five Years of Federal Documents Use Data at Illinois State University 2000-2005" at the Federal Depository Library Conference in Washington, D.C.

Morag Boyd and Sandy Roe presented "Beyond Article Linking: Using OpenURL in Creative Ways" at the North American Serials Interest Group Conference in Minneapolis.

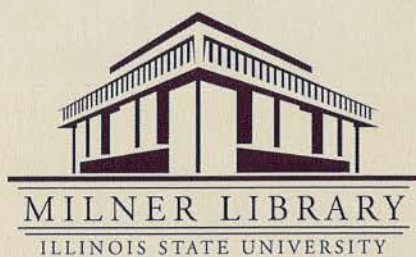
Maureen Brunsdale and Jennifer Hootman presented "Reference and Instruction Partnership" at the Illinois Library Association Conference in Peoria.

Kathe Conley and Toni Tucker presented "Enhance Student Success Through Marketing Your Media Program" at the Illinois School Library Media Association Conference in Decatur.

Steve Gossard presented "Circus History of Petersburg, Illinois" to the Menard County Historical Society.

Christine Kubiak presented, as part of a panel discussion, "Oddball Questions and Secret Resources" at the Midwest Music Library Association in Lexington, Kentucky.

Dane Ward presented "Imaging Information Literacy: The Future of an Evolving Concept" at the Alliance Library System's Academic Librarians Day in Peoria.



2006 upcoming events

Please join us for any or all events sponsored by Milner Library. For additional information visit our Web site at www.library.ilstu.edu or contact Toni Tucker at (309) 438-7402 or ttucker@ilstu.edu.

Friends of Milner Library Fall Speaker

Brain Galloway
"DMZ Zone"
October 5, 7 p.m.
Founders Suite, Bone Student Center

Homecoming Honored Alum

Denise Zielinski '83
"Advocacy and Legislation"
October 13, 10 a.m.
Main Floor, Milner Library

Murder Mystery Dinner*

October 13 and 14
Children's Discovery Museum
101 East Beaufort Street, Normal

Homecoming Parade

October 14
Parade will step off at 10:30 a.m. at the corner of College Avenue and University Street.

Ames/Milner Visiting Author Program

Featuring Sarah Vowell
October 24, 2 p.m.
Main Floor, Milner Library

The Friends of Milner Library Annual Book Sale

October 28, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.
Main Floor, Milner Library

Illinois School and Library Media Association Annual Conference

Reception for Illinois State University alums
November 10, 5:30–6:30 p.m.
Sheraton Chicago Northwest
Arlington Heights

*Enjoy an evening with friends—from hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar to a sit-down dinner and a murder mystery! Co-sponsored by the Friends of Milner Library and the Children's Discovery Museum. Proceeds from this fund-raising event will support library collections and the museum exhibits. Tickets are \$75 and must be purchased in advance. For reservations and additional information call Toni Tucker at (309) 438-7402 or ttucker@ilstu.edu.

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